



# THE CHECK COLLECTOR

January-March 1997

The Journal of

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

Number 41



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#### To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 32 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We retype all material. Illustrations require an original or a good, clear, black and white copy at 80% of the size of the original. Original checks sent in are copied and returned individually and promptly. Finished check photos are always welcome. Any questions, ask the Editor!

#### To our advertisers:

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the April-June issue of *The Check Collector* is May 10

*The Check Collector* is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads must be camera-ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

#### EDITOR'S COLUMN

This begins my fourth year as your Editor. I felt as if I had been at the job for quite a while until I met Ken Trettin, the Editor of *The American Revenerer*, at the ARA meeting in Saint Louis. Ken is in his twentieth year as Editor of that publication!

Incidentally, over the last dozen issues of *TCC*, you may or may not have noticed that the covers have only once featured actual bank checks. This issue follows that tradition, to illustrate the lead article. Bill Castenholz and I gave some thought to whether or not the tale of the Crosby Opera House tickets belonged here, and came to the conclusion that they are fiscal documents with no other obvious 'home.' We hope you will enjoy their story.

I am also renegeing on my promise to continue Ed Lipson's series of articles on American Phototype in this issue. There was already one major revenue stamped paper article, and I'm well aware that not all members collect that area. I would certainly never refuse to illustrate an interesting item because it was revenue-connected, but I do try to maintain a balance. And I will try to prepare another installment of Ed's series for the next issue.

I'd like to thank those of you who wrote to me about checks that bear Gast facsimiles. I will try to summarize this information in a subsequent issue.

Advertising rates are as follows:  
 One quarter page      \$25.00/issue  
 Business card size      \$15.00/issue  
 \$10 discount for four issues paid at once.

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Founded



in 1969

**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.**

A non-profit organization organized under Section 501-(c)-(3)

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***The Great Crosby Opera House Lottery***  
***by Bill Castenholz, VotP***

The pigeon, painted red, white and blue, flew about the hall "in great agitation, not liking the tremendous roaring about him." Jesse Grant stood at the front of the platform in "mute astonishment" while the tumult mounted. Behind him, the curtain rose, exposing a backdrop on which were painted likenesses of the goddess of Liberty and General Grant.<sup>1</sup>

Thus General Ulysses Simpson Grant was nominated to be President of the United States of America at the Republican National Convention. The date was May 21, 1868. The place: the great Crosby Opera House in Chicago.

It was a glorious occasion and a great honor to have the opera house used as the place where this American Hero was nominated to the highest office in the land. But it was not the first time great excitement had been felt within the walls of this magnificent structure. Nor would it be the last.

There had been the grand opening. It was to take place on April 17, 1865 with a presentation of Italian grand opera. But the assassination of President Lincoln three nights before caused a delay until April 20th. When the opening night did occur "a brilliant assembly of society heard 'Il Trovatore' and marveled at the splendor of the place

"Thereafter Crosby's was the home of grand opera. Its auditorium rang with the voices of Kellogg, Hauck, Brignoli, Ferranti, Parepa-Rosa, Bellini, Castle and a host of other far-famed singers. The Shakespearean plays of the day had their most sumptuous settings in this place."<sup>2</sup>

Needless to say there had been great excitement in October, 1871, when the dreams of U.H. Crosby went up in smoke. Whether it was Mrs O'Leary's cow or some other source, the conflagration destroyed about 18,000 buildings over an area of approximately 2,000 acres. The Crosby Opera House certainly must have been one of the most spectacular edifices to have perished.

But there was another very exciting time for Crosby's. It culminated on the 1st of October, 1866. And before it was over, thousands were involved in a "lottery" which has provided us with one of the most fascinating pieces of revenue stamped paper ever to have been produced. The story is a fascinating one.

"In the Spring of 1865, Mr U.H. Crosby completed his magnificent Opera House, at a cost of \$600,000. Owing to the great excess of this expenditure over the original estimates, resulting from the enhanced value of materials and labor during the war, from modifications and improvements suggested in the progress of the work, which were necessary to perfect his design, and from other unforeseen causes which it is unnecessary to state. Mr Crosby became financially embarrassed, and only succeeded in his purpose of giving to Chicago this noble work of art at the sacrifice of his fortune."<sup>3</sup>

Thus began the "Prospectus" for the great Crosby Opera House Art Association lottery. The prospectus went on to say, "This reverse having made the sale of the property necessary, the friends of Art in this and Eastern cities have urged the idea of making its disposal the basis of a National Distribution of Paintings and Engravings, upon the Art Union plan. . ."

U.H. Crosby had come to Chicago from the East in 1850. After making a fortune in the liquor business, he determined to construct a monument to the arts, one to be the most outstanding in the country. What resulted was the Crosby Opera House. Located on the north side of Washington Street, between

State and Dearborn, it was indeed a fabulous and lavish structure.

What brought this great civic project to such a desperate point? And how was it to be retrieved?

"With its art gallery of paintings and sculptures, Crosby's was all very wonderful, but as an investment it was top-heavy and virtually ruined the man who built it. At a crisis in his affairs friends of Crosby organized an association and decided to dispose of the house by lottery."<sup>4</sup>

Thousands of beautifully produced certificates were sold for \$5 each. They promised to award each holder with a fine steel engraving. Actually, in addition, the purchaser had a chance to win one of three hundred and two prizes. There were 301 very significant pieces of art, including a number of oil paintings by renowned artists and an original life-size bust of Abraham Lincoln in Carrara marble. But the grand prize was the actual Opera House itself!

"Most of the purchasers lived in Chicago, but nearly every state in the Union was represented. As the day for the drawing approached expectancy was on tiptoe. Hotels were jammed with incoming holders of certificates. Hundreds slept in saloons and railroad stations the night of 30 September, 1866\*. The next day there was a terrific crush at the opera house when the doors were thrown open.



**Figures 1 and 2.** A set of four consecutively numbered Crosby Opera House Art Association certificates and the receipt, dated August 22, 1866 which accompanied them. The imprinted revenue stamp, a P-5 in orange, paid the required five cents federal tax on a certificate. The "certificate" was carefully worded, as was the prospectus, to avoid any mention of the word "lottery."

These certificates were delivered to a firm in Keesville (sic), New York.

"The drawing on the stage was under the supervision of a committee of staid business men from Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Saint Louis, Detroit and Fall River, Massachusetts. In one great revolving device 210,000 numbered cards were placed. In a small one were 302 tickets, representing as many articles to be raffled. Drawings from each were made simultaneously, the holder of the drawn ticket from the large wheel being in each case the winner of the prize designated by the number on the ticket of the other wheel."

"Excitement was intense when, well on in the drawing, ticket 58,600 called for the grand prize, the Crosby Opera House. The holder of the lucky number was not present, but he proved to be A.H. Lee, of Prairie du Rocher, Illinois.

"Couriers on horseback notified Lee that night as he lay peacefully in his bed in the little town. A few days later he came to Chicago and, according to his statement, sold the opera house back to the builder for \$200,000 in cash. In the summer of 1871 the house was overhauled at a cost of \$80,000, and fell in ruins in the fire of that year."<sup>4</sup>

\* Incorrectly stated in the original as January 20.

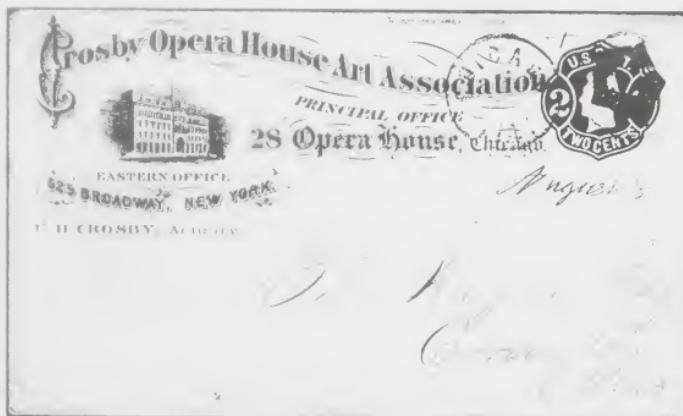
1. McFeely, William S., *Grant: A Biography*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1981, p. 277, being a direct quote from the *New York Herald*, May 22 1868

2. Hills, Frank K., "Editorial Comments and Current Topics," *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Vol. X, No. 40 (Jan 2, 1926), p. 960.

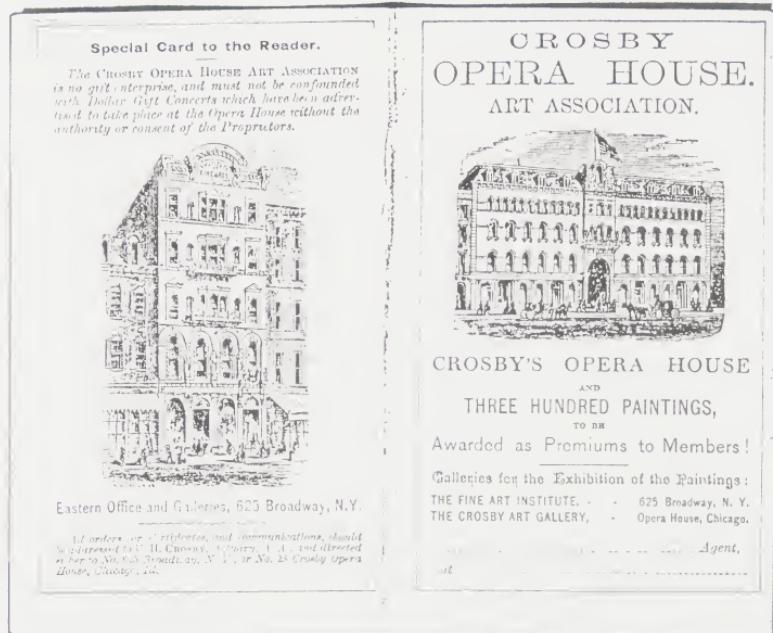
3. *Crosby Opera House Art Association* (prospectus describing the "lottery"), no date (circa 1866).

4. Hills, Frank K. "Editorial Comments and Current Topics," *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Vol. X, No. 40 (Jan 2, 1926), p. 961.

5. Ibid.



**Figure 3.** An orange entire of the type used to mail the brochure describing the scheme at the circular rate of 2 cents. The envelope is tan, and bears the Jackson Die 3 issued in 1864. The available illustration of the actual envelope used to mail the prospectus was not of good enough quality to print, so this one from the Editor's collection was used instead.



**Figure 4.** The back and front covers of an eighteen-page prospectus outlining the reason for, and method of disposal of, the art objects and the opera house itself. The remainder of the prospectus is illustrated on the next four pages. Please ask the Editor for a copy if the type does not remain readable and you are interested

**Figure 5.** on the cover, shows an unsevered pair of tickets. Does anyone know of any others, or any larger unsevered multiples?

### *Postscript: Taxes, Taxes*

A proof of the Crosby ticket exists in the collection of Ed Lipson. An illustration was not available for this issue. It is not of the same design as the final item, as it is clearly a lottery ticket

The design was very likely changed due to the lottery tax. The Tax Act of June 30, 1864 provided "That every individual partnership . . . being proprietor(s) . . . of lotteries, shall pay a tax of five per centum on the gross amount of the receipts from the said business; . . ." Each five dollar lottery ticket would engender twenty five cents in tax, whereas the tax on miscellaneous certificates or agreements was only five cents.

Ed also points out that the tickets were redeemed at several different locations. The place of redemption can be determined by the type of handstamp on the back.

Finally, U. H. Crosby refers to himself as an actuary - but does not appear in E. J. Moorehead's compilation of information on noted nineteenth century actuaries. Does anyone have further information about him?

*From Chicago Eve. Journal.*

### THE CROSBY OPERA HOUSE ART ASSOCIATION.

The sale of tickets has been so rapid as to warrant an announcement that the end is approaching, and a committee has been appointed on behalf of the people to superintend and conduct the drawing.

The subscription books, when closed, will be at once transferred to the keeping of a committee, who will have sole charge thereof, and who will superintend the drawing and the awards. This committee has been selected from among our best citizens and wealthiest capitalists. Their names are a tower of strength to an enterprise that has enlisted the sympathies and active co-operation of art lovers throughout the Union. Such names as the following are a guarantee of good faith and an assurance that nothing dishonorable will mar the brilliancy of a commendable and beneficial project. The committee is composed of the following gentlemen:

W. F. COOLS (WON), . . . President Union National Bank.  
ANOS T. HALL, Tyres, Chicago Burlingt. & Quincy R. R.  
R. G. HALL, . . . . . Hall, Kimball & Co.  
CLINTON BRIGGS, . . . . . Ewing, Briggs & Co.  
J. C. DORN, . . . . . President of the Board of Trade.  
JAMES H. BOWEN, . . . . . President Third National Bank.  
JAMES C. FARGO, . . . . . Agent American Express.  
FRANCIS A. HOFFMAN, . . . . . Ex-Lient. Governor.  
L. T. MURK, . . . . . Munn & Scott, Elevator.  
J. A. ELGIN, . . . . . President Second National Bank

These names are a sufficient guarantee that the proceeding will be conducted with the most perfect fairness and integrity.

Printed by Wynkoop & Halliebeck, 113 Fulton Street, N. Y.

### PROSPECTUS

ON the Spring of 1865, Mr. U. H. Crosby completed his magnificent Opera House, at a cost of \$800,000. Owing to the great excess of this expenditure over the original estimates, resulting from the enhanced value of materials and labor during the war, from modifications and improvements suggested in the progress of the work, which were necessary to perfect his design, and from other unforeseen causes which it is unnecessary to state, Mr. Crosby became financially embarrassed, and only succeeded in his purpose of giving to Chicago this noble work of art at the sacrifice of his fortune.

This reverse having made the sale of the property necessary, the friends of Art in this and Eastern cities have urged the idea of making its disposal the basis of a National Distribution of Paintings and Engravings, upon the Art Union plan. The suggestion met with the approval of gentlemen of prominence in business circles here, and led to the subscription, by a number of the leading citizens of Chicago, of a large fund for the institution of the "Opera House Art Association," the objects of which should be the realization of the original cost of the Opera House, and the distribution of a large collection of Paintings and

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### CROSBY OPERA HOUSE

Engravings of value, selected from the works of the most eminent artists of America. This plan has received the most generous co-operation and support of the leading American Artists. They have signified their appreciation of Mr. Crosby's interest in Art, and of his sacrifices in its behalf, by contributing to the enterprise many of their finest works at such a large reduction from the market value of the Paintings as to ensure a handsome fund for the benefit of Mr. Crosby. The Engravers and Publishers have earnestly joined with the Artists in a similar liberality and have furnished the plates and the immense supply of Engravings requisite for distribution at a price which leaves a most liberal sum as a compliment to Mr. Crosby, while the public will receive the Engravings at a cost not greater than the regular subscription price. It is proposed to award the Opera House and Paintings as premiums to members of the Association; the OPERA HOUSE BEING OFFERED AS FIRST PREMIUM. Thus securing an advantageous sale of the property, at its actual cost, to Mr. Crosby, and in a manner which will at the same time promote the very object of its erection—the advancement of American Art.

In acquiescence with this suggestion, "The Crosby Opera House Art Association" has been formed upon the following plan:

### ART ASSOCIATION.

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#### FIRST:

There will be issued to members certificates for 210,000 Shares at \$5 each, numbering from 1 to 210,000 inclusive, which entitle the holder to receive one or more of the first-class Steel Engravings hereafter described, a share in the award of Premiums, and FREE ADMISSION TO THE GALLERIES OF THE ASSOCIATION UNTIL THE AWARD TAKES PLACE.

#### SECOND:

There will be awarded among the members as Premiums,

The

**CROSBY OPERA HOUSE & LOT ON WHICH IT STANDS**  
Erected at a cost of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars,  
together with all the splendid Stage Scenery, Machinery,  
Furniture, Fixtures and Accessories,—  
er'd

**Three Hundred Choice and Valuable  
OIL PAINTINGS,**  
By the first American Artists, among which are:

BIRNSTADT'S GREAT PAINTING, entitled,  
**"THE YOSEMITE VALLEY,"**  
Valued at Twenty Thousand Dollars!

A magnificent Landscape, about 8 by 11 feet in size.—Now on exhibition at the Crosby Art Gallery.

**CROPSEY'S GREAT WORK, ENTITLED  
"AN AMERICAN AUTUMN,"**  
Valued at Six Thousand Dollars.

A glorious Autumnal Landscape, about 8 by 14 feet in size, and the original from which the

Figures 6 and 7. The first four pages of the Crosby prospectus.

## CROSBY OPERA HOUSE

Chromo Engraving, printed in colors exclusively for the Association, was taken.—This fine work is on exhibition at the Gallery of the Association in New York.

SCHUSSSEL'S GREAT NATIONAL PAINTING OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORS, entitled,

**"Washington Irving and his Friends."**

Valued at Five Thousand Dollars.

This magnificent work of art is about 7 by 10 feet in size, and the original from which the superb Steel Engraving, (to be issued to shareholders) is engraved, and is now exhibiting by the Association in Cincinnati.

HART'S CHARMING AND CELEBRATED PAINTING OF AMERICAN SCENERY, entitled,

**"WOODS IN AUTUMN."**

Valued at Five Thousand Dollars.

A splendid Painting—size about 7 by 10 feet. On exhibition at the Crosby Art Gallery.

CONSTANT MAYER'S CELEBRATED PAINTING, entitled,

**"RECOGNITION."**

Valued at Five Thousand Dollars.

A large Historical Work—the Story of a Battle Field. Size about 8 by 12 feet. Now exhibiting by the Association at St. Louis.

## CROSBY OPERA HOUSE

favorite paintings, the "SCHOOL EXAMINATION," "DOUBLE TREAT," and "SELECTING THE BRIDAL DRESS.") Also

*The Original Life-size Bust of ABRAHAM LINCOLN,* from Life.

Executed in the purest Carrara Statuary Marble, by L. W. VOLK, to which has been assigned a place in the World's Exposition, to be held at Paris in 1867. Valued at Two Thousand Dollars.

Now on exhibition at the Crosby Art Gallery.

Note.—Mr. Volk has graciously consented to the *purchase* of this splendid work by the Association, trusting that the person to whom it shall be awarded will consent to its being exhibited at the "World's Exposition" as intended, with proper security for its safety.

In order that every Certificate shall entitle the holder to a premium in the award, the Association will, in addition to the 302 premiums enumerated, award to every member, who shall not have received one of the same, an engraving of the Opera House.

To enable the public to judge for themselves of the great merit of these Paintings, the entire collection, by far the largest and most valuable ever offered by any Art Union, will be placed on exhibition until the award takes place, a part, alternately, at the Crosby Gallery, in the Opera House, Chicago, and at the Art Institute, 625 Broadway, New York, the holders of Certificates being entitled to admission, free of charge.

## ART ASSOCIATION.

BEARD'S GREAT WESTERN LANDSCAPE, entitled,

**"DEER ON THE PRAIRIE."**

Valued at Four Thousand Dollars.

Size about 8 by 10 feet.—Now in the Crosby Art Gallery.

GIGNOUX'S MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPE, entitled,

**"ALPINE SCENERY."**

Valued at Three Thousand Dollars.

Also works by the following eminent artists.

BERNSTADT,	CROPSEY,
BEARD,	CASILEAR,
BRADFORD,	COLEMAN,
CHURCH,	DANA,
GIGOUX,	LE CLEAR,
SAYFORD R. GIFFORD,	LANG,
JAMES M. HART,	CONSTANCE MAYER,
WILLIAM HART,	MCENTER,
GEO. H. HALL,	NAGEL,
HUBBARD,	T. ADDISON RICHARDS,
HAZELTINE,	SHATTUCK,
INNESS,	SONNTAG,
E. JOHNSON,	TATE,
KENSETT,	EDWIN WHITE,
LUBITZ,	WILLIAMSON,
	WHITTREDGE,

And many others.

Full Catalogues of which will soon be issued. This splendid Gallery, embracing specimens of nearly all the leading Painters in the country, and illustrating nearly every school of American Art, will also comprise the entire private collection of Mr. CROSBY, (including those well known and

## ART ASSOCIATION.

Order of Issuing Certificates of Membership.

For \$5, One Share or Certificate of Membership

is issued, and with it one of the following beautiful Steel Engravings:

**"THE LITTLE WANDERER,"**

From the original, by the eminent Artist, THOS. FAED; or

**"GATHERING APPLES,"**

A charming Rural Scene, from the original, JEROME THOMPSON.

For \$10, Two Shares or Certificates

are issued, with which the holder receives the superb Steel Engraving of the American Authors,

**"Washington Irving and his Friends at Sunnyside."**

from the great National Painting, by DARLEY & SCHUSSSEL

For \$15, Three Shares or Certificates are issued with which the holder receives the charming Allegorical Engraving on Steel entitled

**"MERCY'S DREAM,"**

From the original, by the great American Artist, D. HUNTINGTON.

Figures 8 and 9. The next four pages of the Crosby prospectus.

**For \$20, Four Shares or Certificates**

are issued, with which the holder receives the superb Chromo Engraving, printed in colors, and issued exclusively by the "Art Association,"

**"AN AMERICAN AUTUMN;"**

By the celebrated Artist, J. F. Copley.

**For \$50, Ten Shares or Certificates**

are issued, with which the holder receives a choice Artist Proof of either one of the following subjects:

**"Washington Irving and his Friends."**  
"Crosby's American Autumn,"  
or "Mercy's Dream."

Artist Proofs are the very first impressions taken from the plates, are limited in number, each one being retouched and signed by the Artist, making them rare and desirable.

**NOTE.**

The plates of the Engravings having been secured by the Association on the most liberal terms, they are cashed in to offer entirely new works at the lowest publishers' rates.

Thus it is seen that all purchasers of the above engravings receive at once the value of their money, and in addition a certificate in the award of premiums, and free admission to the Art Galleries.

**ART ASSOCIATION.****THE FIRST PREMIUM,****CROSBY'S OPERA HOUSE.**

is situated on Washington Street, with a frontage of 140 feet, by 180 feet in depth, five stories high, with Mansard Roof. It is of Athens Marble, in the modern Italian style, and is conceded by all, to be one of the finest buildings in America. Four spacious stores, each 30 by 120 feet, two on each side of the grand and imposing entrance to the Opera House, divide between them the first story of this matchless temple of art. The remaining floors are occupied by offices and studios. The annual rental of this portion of the building, exclusive of the Opera House proper, is at present \$30,000.

The Studios are connected with one of the finest Art Galleries in the country, known as the "Crosby Art Gallery," and form one of the most agreeable attractions which Chicago offers.

Of the Auditorium of the Opera House, no description can be attempted here. It is impossible to convey to those who have not viewed it, any adequate idea of its exceeding richness and beauty. It is pronounced by all to be the finest in the world.

The Premiums will be ready for delivery immediately upon the result of the award being known; and the person by whom the FIRST PREMIUM is drawn, will receive a CONVEYANCE

**IN FEE OF AN UNINCUMBERED TITLE TO THE CROSBY OPERA HOUSE,** subject only to the existing leases, the rents to accrue to the person to whom the property shall be awarded from the day upon which the drawing takes place. Information relative to the title and legal arrangements will be furnished on application at the Real Estate Office of Messrs. REED & ATRES, Chicago.

While the primary objects of the undertaking are those already mentioned, there is another of more general interest which would be attained by its successful issue, namely: the developing of a taste for the fine arts by the distribution of so large a number of first-class Paintings and Engravings. It is not designed in this Prospectus to go at length into the advantages of fostering and extending a love for the beautiful in art or in nature. It may, however, be suggested that it is by actual contact with the works themselves that such tastes are most surely cultivated, and this single reflection should insure to the project the sympathy and active co-operation of all who recognize this truth.

The following letter is subjoined as an evidence of the deep interest taken by the Chicago public

**ART ASSOCIATION.**

in the success of the enterprise, and of the warm approval of the plan by gentlemen of high commercial and personal standing.

U. H. CROSBY, Esq.

Dear Sirs.—We have been pleased to learn that you have decided to adopt the "Union" principle in the dispensation of your Opera House.

While we should be glad to know of your success in such an enterprise, under any circumstances, it would add greatly to our gratification to reflect that, in accomplishing your object, you have given additional impetus to the development of artistic taste in this country, which would be only the natural result of the distribution, as engraving, of a large number of first-class paintings and engravings. We heartily desire that we may congratulate you upon this fact, as well as upon the important fact that one that they possess in your own well established integrity guarantees that the enterprise will be fairly and honorably conducted.

With every wish that you may succeed, we are, dear sir,

Yours Very Truly,

E. B. McCAGG,  
W. F. COOLBAUGH,  
S. C. COOPER,  
HIRAM WHEELER,  
THOS. CHURCH,  
J. A. ELLIS,  
A. G. FAY,  
AMOS T. HALL,  
MAHION D. OGDEN,  
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Ed. & Jn. Chic. Republican.

T. C. & J. C. & R. R.

Orden, Fleetwood & Co.

Munn & Scott, Elevator.

Manger, Wheeler & Co., Elev.

Cashier Second National Bank.

Ed. & Jn. Chic. Journal.

Gen. Prod. Co. & C.R.R.

Doggett, Bassett & Hill.

Hinsdale, Shibley & Buddeot.

Hill, Kirkirk & Co.

Cashier Third National Bank.

Faxon & Co.

Barley & Tyrrell.

Figures 10 and 11. The next four pages of the Crosby prospectus.

NATHAN MEARS, CLINTON BRIGGS, JAS. C. BENJ., CHAUNCEY T. BOWEN, JAS. C. FARGO, GEO. L. DUNLAP, N. K. DURBANK, J. C. DURR, GEO. P. A. HEALY, ELISHA S. WADSWORTH, GEO. SIMONEN, W. R. STOTREY, PERRY H. SMITH, C. M. HENDERSON, H. H. GIGLI, F. C. SHIRMAN, PHILIP WADSWORTH, L. Z. LIPITER, FRANCIS J. HOFFMANN, PETER PAGE, CARL F. W. JUNGE, A. C. HESING, JULIAN S. RUMSEY, DAVID A. GAGE,	Mears, Bates & Co. Ewing, Briggs & Co. French, Third National Bank. Loring, Powers. Agent American Express. Sup't Northwestern R. R. President of Board of Trade. Artist. Blowen Brothers. Editor & Pro. Chicago Times. Vice-Pres' Northwest'n R. R. M. H. Henderson & Co. Ex-Mayor. P. Wadsworth & Co. Field, Palmer & Loiter. U. S. Ass't Governor. Ca'vier Mech. National Bank. Editor Staats Zeitung. Ex-Mayor. Sherman House.
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From the Artists of New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

U. S. CROSBY, Esq., Chicago, Ill.

DEAN Sir.—We, the undersigned Artists, of  
New York, Philadelphia and Boston,

Learning of your late misfortune, and the generous desire of your fellow citizens of Chicago, and others, to assist you in re-establishing yourself through the success of the

#### "CROSBY OPERA HOUSE ART ASSOCIATION."

Take pleasure in assuring you of our hearty good will and co-operation, wishing you all success and continuance in well doing, in bringing Art so advantageously and generously before our whole People :

To those persons who wish to select particular numbers, the Association desires to say that it is found to be impossible to issue certificates, therefore, to begin rotation. The certificates are divided between the two offices in Chicago and the Eastern Agency in New York, every five thousand numbers being reserved for sale in the New York office, while they are distributed to sub-agents in every Eastern city town. Those retained here are distributed in like manner from New Haven to Montreal. They are selling very rapidly, rendering it impossible, with any available clerical force, to maintain a reliable record of the unsold numbers.

#### What the Press say:

The Opera House.—It may not be unknown to many of our readers that for some time past the friends of Art in the more important cities, have urged upon Mr. Crosby, the idea of establishing an Opera House on the basis of a great National distribution of fine Engravings, upon the "Art Union" plan. The suggestion had met with the approval of many of our leading citizens, and a movement was made to put it in operation. It has already been productive of a large fund, subscribed for the purpose of carrying the brilliant project into execution. Mr. Crosby has agreed to let the building, and arrangements are now rapidly making to fit it immediately.

We can best give some notion of the magnitude of this enterprise by adding that it proposes not only the distribution of over one hundred thousand selected from the works of the most eminent Artists in the world, of a pure Artistic Art, but also that of upwards of \$200,000 worth of choice engravings, besides the awarding of the Opera House as the first premium.

This simple announcement will awaken in every circle of our city—and indeed throughout the whole country—the general desire which has been long eager to aid Mr. Crosby in the work he has undertaken while giving to Chicago its most splendid monument.

We predict for this enterprise a rapid and brilliant

From New York Leader.

The enterprise, which Mr. Crosby has suggested, is quite above the common order. It is induced by the present citizens of Chicago and by our leading artists, and there can be no question that it will be honorably and legitimately

#### NEW YORK ARTISTS:

A. BIERSTADT, W. M. BRADFORD, M. F. DEHLAS, LAURENCE DODD, THOMAS E. DURR, S. J. GUTH, J. V. HEADE, THOMAS HICKS, FRANCIS E. CHURCH, E. LEUTZE, W. H. BEARD, W. H. PAGE, LOUIS PRANG, JAMES M. HANT, JULIE H. BEERS, JAS. FAIRKAN,	W. W. HART, W. J. HAY, S. R. GIFFORD, R. W. HOWARD, A. D. SHATTUCK, EUGENE GIGOUX, J. W. CIVILIAN, W. M. SAWYER, J. F. KENSETT, CONSTANCE MAYER, V. NELSON, I. D. COOPER, JR., J. F. CROPER, J. R. BREVOORT, D. C. FABRIONUS, J. B. STEARNS.
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#### PHILADELPHIA ARTISTS:

TOM SULLY, ED. B. BOYNTON, GEORGE LAMBDIN, W. H. BAUGH, E. H. BESSEL, D. R. KNIGHT, P. F. ROTHERMEL,	T. HENRY SMITH, THOMAS MORAN, J. H. LAMBDIN, EDMOND D. LEWIS, JOHN SAINTS, I. HAMILTON, C. G. BOERNER.
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#### BOSTON ARTISTS:

GEO. L. BROWN, VINCENT WILLIAMS, W. A. GAY, J. M. HARRIS, F. FLETCHER, Geo. FULLER, WM. M. FISHER,	T. ROBINSON, A. H. BUCKNELL, F. D. WILLIAMS, G. M. BROWN, J. AMES, F. M. J. JOHNSTON, F. H. DEBOIS.
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#### NOTICE.

In ordering Certificates, please name Engraving desired. If the Engraving is to be forwarded, to insure its safety, enclose nine cents in stamps for mailing. Send Draft, Post Office Money-Orders, or Greenbacks, with address of Town, County and State carefully written, as every Certificate is fully registered.

#### ART ASSOCIATION.

conducted. It is designed as a popular medium to beautify the houses of the people by presenting them with fine engravings. If Mr. Crosby has chosen this novel plan to relieve himself from temporary financial embarrassments, there is no doubt that it will be successful, and the circulation of so many artistic pictures among those who do not usually spend their money for works of art.

From New York Mercury.

There can be little wonder that the artists of the United States have already marked their cordial approval of so grand a plan, and we conceive that with the letter intended for the friends of Art in Chicago, will once remove any doubt respecting the genuineness of the association, which might otherwise probably be entertained. The venture will at once take shape in the Crosby Art Union, and those who are connected with it will be assisted by certainty will do so, because they are certain of at once realizing the value of the \$5 which they invest.

From Boston Traveler.

Attention is called to The Crosby Opera House Art Association.—Owing to the embarrassments arising from the excess of Mr. Crosby's expenditures in erecting the Opera House in Chicago, Ill., which has rendered the sale of the building necessary, the members of the Art Union, which was eagerly accepted by many of his fellow-citizens, are anxious to have leading American painters and engravers, and it is believed that Mr. Crosby will be repaid for his immense outlay, and the art of America permanently benefited.

From New York Courier.

A CHANCE FOR THE SPECULATIVE.—Any person who may be disposed to invest \$5 without any chance of not recovering it, will find it a very agreeable prospect before him, of, perhaps, a few months, to rent a poor man, and a swashbuckling more than half a millionaires, may now do so by visiting or writing to the Art Institute, No. 626 Broadway, and taking a share in the Crosby Opera House Art Association.

The Chicago Times says:

Nothing so grand as this project was ever before conceived. There never was one which involved so much property, and so much risk, and it is a project in which the public could invest their money with the same certainty that the transaction would be conducted by honorable men. As will be seen, Mr. Crosby has submitted his plan

Figures 12 and 13. Another four pages of the Crosby prospectus.

## 10 CROSBY OPERA HOUSE ART ASSOCIATION.

to the best men in Chicago, and they give it a cordial and unhesitating endorsement. There can be nothing surer than the fact that the operation is in honorable hands, and that every dollar will be so properly accounted for as if deposited in a bank.

*From New York Sunday Times.*

Mr. Crosby has appropriated \$10,000 to the Opera House in China, to meet expenses, and has been restricted to seek for some mode to relieve himself of the embarrassments of his position. The amount of his personal assets was \$40,000, and the individuals who are disposed to purchase such a property, at such a price, are rare, even when its accompanying stockholders and students for loan. What was there to be done? Mr. Crosby or those who may possibly be associated with him, are executives. They have originated this "art association—an association which is to be a means of self-government, and a means of ensuring itself a positive success. In the first place, they offer to every subscriber, not alone a share in the Opera House, but the chance of an investment, becoming a co-partner with the principal owners, holding a share very valuable, if not as valuable, premiums. These consist of paintings by all the leading artists of the country, among whom are Rembrandt, Velasquez, and others. The first seven of these are in actual value \$45,000. That this is a positively genuine offer no doubt can exist.

*From New York Ulster.*

The CROSBY OPERA HOUSE ART ASSOCIATION.—It is perhaps well for the public that speculative men of means are not always speculators. Mr. Crosby, of Chicago, having a great deal of cash, mostly in art, \$10,000 and a special estate of \$40,000, and being in funds, and in imminent danger of bankruptcy, he has resorted to a course of action allowed to him by state laws of his home in the West. The administration which put him in the position was honest, and the author of his present trouble is the same. He is now in the West in Chicago, in complete owing to losses in his business, pending an effort to increase in these of labor and capital. He has found that he had better not run away. His resources however are small, however, who knows how poor and unsuccessful he might get determining to remain in Chicago. In addition to his wealth with him is a large sum of money in a private n. f. with him in New Haven, Connecticut. The Crosby Opera House Art Association, to be sure, upon their largest scale, will be a good speculation, but you should well reflect from all sides, well nigh a millionaire.

## PLAN OF DRAWING.

The PLAN OF AWARD adopted is the following: *210,000 Numbers*, representing the certificates issued, will be placed in one wheel, and *Three Hundred and Two* *Tickets* inscribed with the name of the premium, to wit,

The Opera House, Three Hundred Paintings, the Bust of Lincoln, will be placed in another.

From these wheels a Number and a Premium will be drawn simultaneously, the number drawn, in each instance, taking the premium drawn with it.

The Subscription Books will close on Saturday, the 22d of September, 1866; and on the 1st of October the AWARD OF PREMIUMS will be publicly made at the Opera House.

The Subscription Books, on being closed, will be placed in the hands of the following gentlemen, who have kindly consented to act as the Chicago Members of the Committee, to conduct the Award of Premiums:

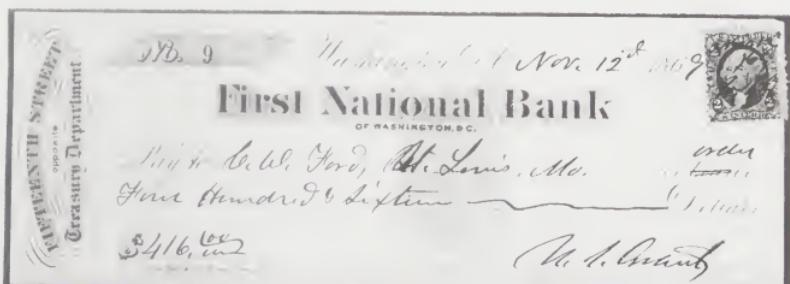
W. F. COOLBAUGH,	President Union National Bank.
AMOS T. HALL,	Treasurer C. B. & Q. R. R.
E. G. HALL,	Hall, Kimball & Co.
CLINTON BRIGGS,	Kings, Briggs & Co.
J. C. DORE,	President of the Board of Trade
JAS. H. BOWEN,	President Third National Bank.
JAMES C. FARGO,	Agent American Express
FRANCIS A. HOFFMAN,	Ex-Lieut. Governor
J. Y. MUNN,	Munn & Scott, Elevator
J. A. ELLIS	President Second National Bank.

These gentlemen, together with such others from different parts of the country as they may add to their number, for the purpose of fairly representing the shareholders at large, will have the sole management of the award in suits of law.

Figure 14—The final two pages of the Crosby prospectus.

## A Find in the Marketplace

Purely by chance, two articles in this issue mention Ulysses S. Grant, one a short descriptions of his first nomination to the presidency, and the second, a reference in passing. Good things come in threes, they say.



This check was written during Grant's first term in office, a little over two weeks after the financial panic of "Black Friday," when Jay Gould and Jim Fiske attempted to corner the gold market.

***Cheextra***  
*by Herman Boraker*

<p>Remember to use your Cheextra® Card at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery stores</li> <li>• Gas stations</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Department stores</li> <li>• Anywhere Visa® is accepted.</li> </ul> <p>The Cheextra Card... the easy way to pay.</p>	<p><b>CHEXTRA Certificate</b></p> <p>Colorado National Bank</p> <p>Valid Through 3/14/97</p> <p>173 19 1090</p> <p>Pay to the Order of <b>Conoco</b> TWO and <b>00/100</b> \$ <b>2.00</b> Dollars</p> <p><b>conoco</b> MOTOR OIL &amp; GAS</p> <p><small>When used with a Cheextra Card on a minimum gas purchase of \$10.00. Limit one certificate per purchase. No reproductions accepted. Attention cashier: PROCESS AS A CHECK</small></p> <p><i>WKR</i></p> <p>1091000022117310078817811090</p> <hr/> <p><b>CHEXTRA Certificate</b></p> <p>Colorado National Bank</p> <p>Valid Through 3/14/97</p> <p>174 19 1423</p> <p>Pay to the Order of <b>Conoco</b> TWO and <b>00/100</b> \$ <b>2.00</b> Dollars</p> <p><b>conoco</b> MOTOR OIL &amp; GAS</p> <p><small>When used with a Cheextra Card on a minimum gas purchase of \$10.00. Limit one certificate per purchase. No reproductions accepted. Attention cashier: PROCESS AS A CHECK</small></p> <p><i>WKR</i></p> <p>1091000022117310078817811423</p> <hr/> <p><b>CHEXTRA Certificate</b></p> <p>Colorado National Bank</p> <p>Valid Through 3/14/97</p> <p>175 19 1756</p> <p>Pay to the Order of <b>Jiffy Lube</b> FIVE and <b>00/100</b> \$ <b>5.00</b> Dollars</p> <p><b>jiffylube</b></p> <p><small>When used with a Cheextra Card on a Signature Service Oil Change. Limit one certificate per purchase. No reproductions accepted. Attention cashier: PROCESS AS A CHECK</small></p> <p><i>WKR</i></p> <p>1091000022117310078817811756</p>
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I received these three Cheextra certificates - great pseudo-checks - in the mail last October. This is something new to me. Is it common elsewhere?

I'm certain there was one more 'check' at the top of this page - maybe more?



**An Armchair Adventure**  
**Robert A. Spence**

As luck would have it, at the beginning of a period of some foul winter weather, I obtained a fascinating lot of bills of exchange, checks and drafts, most from far off places in Asia and Africa. The eye-catching revenue stamps, different formats, endorsements and transit markings, some with high face values, thumbprint identifications and strange scripts marked these items as records of financial adventure and business enterprise. It was armchair travel played with *National Geographic* maps of Asia and Africa.

At times, it was a challenge to determine the path followed by the documents to payment by listing the bank endorsements of holders in due course. These documents were impressive as they ranged in size from business check to letter-sheet size and even larger.

Many of these documents provide more information than appears at first glance. Some were drawn in periods of political change and unrest. Many of the documents indicated the drawers designated payment be made in English pounds sterling deposited to their accounts in London banks.

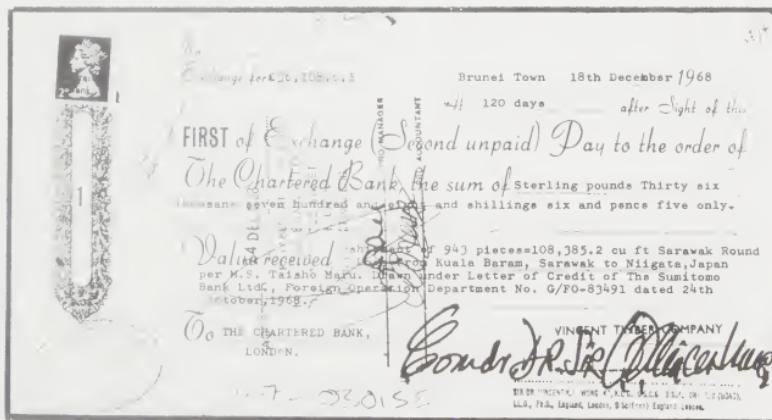
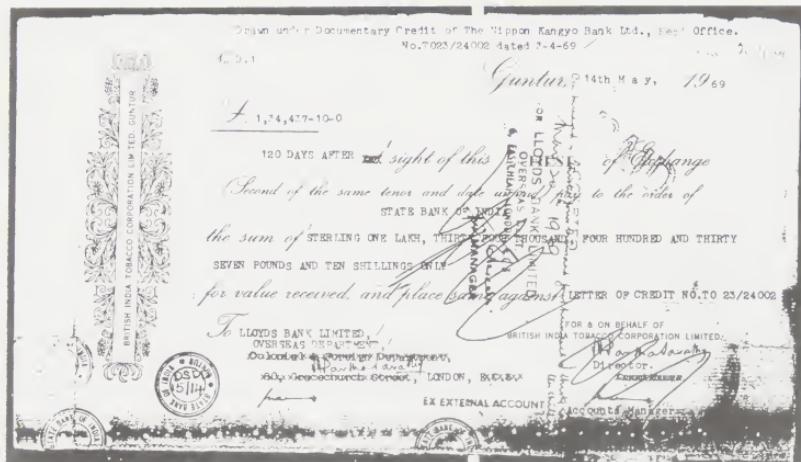


Figure 1 is a 1968 First of Exchange drawn in Brunei Town, capital of the Sultanate of Brunei located on the island of Borneo when it was a British dependency. The bill is drawn for payment for a substantial shipment of Sarawak logwood from Kuala Baram, a port on the Sarawak-Brunei border, to Niigata, Japan on the island of Honshu, Japan and drawn under a letter of credit of the Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of Japan. There is a duty (revenue) stamp of Brunei on the back of the bill and a two pence English adhesive duty stamp with the overprint "Chartered Bank" affixed to the face of the bill. The face amount of the bill is over 36,700 English pounds sterling, at that time about \$88,000.

The bill is signed by a distinguished executive of the timber company and bears five bank stamps for acceptance, endorsements, holders in due course and date paid.



**Figure 2** is a First of Exchange drawn by the British Indian Tobacoo Corp. Ltd. at Guntur, India. My first view of this document was of a large 10½" by 6½" First of Exchange with State Bank of India stamps to "tie" it to a folded allonge that showed a bit along two sides. Unfolding the First of Exchange and the attached allonge, the document measured 22" by 18½" overall! The face of the allonge has only a solitary two pence English adhesive duty stamp with overprint "S.B. of L London" and a State Bank of India endorsement of the branch manager. Turning the document over, the back side was a sea of blue, almost completely covered with 191 large adhesive India Foreign Bill duty stamps of Rupees Six each and 2 stamps of Rupees Two.

The very large amount of rupees for duty hinted at a large face amount. Again turning the document over, the written words "Sterling 1 Lakh, Thirty Four Thousand and Thirty Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings only". The amount in figures was given as "r 1,34,437-10-0". The amount expressed in figures did not help. I finally saw the manuscript crossing above the Lloyds Bank Ltd. acceptance stamp "One hundred and thirty four thousand four hundred + thirty seven pounds ten shillings". Not a million pounds sterling but still about \$322,000 in 1969, a significant sum.

This First of Exchange was drawn under Documentary Credit of the Nippon Kangyo Bank Ltd., Head Office in Japan. It is the largest size bill of exchange with allonge document I have ever seen.

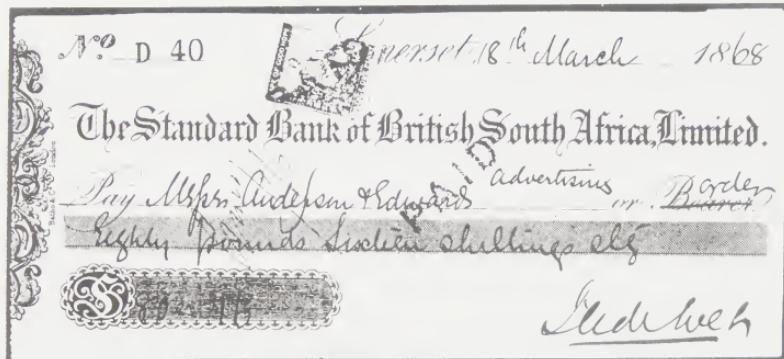
Figures 3 and 3a on the next page illustrate a check size First of Exchange drawn in Sibu, Sarawak in 1969 under a letter of credit of the Daiwa Bank Ltd. for "Sterling pounds twenty-three thousand six hundred and nineteen and shillings fifteen and pence nil". It is well furnished with several varieties of bank stamps and endorsements and 13 Malaysian duty stamps on the back and one on the face.



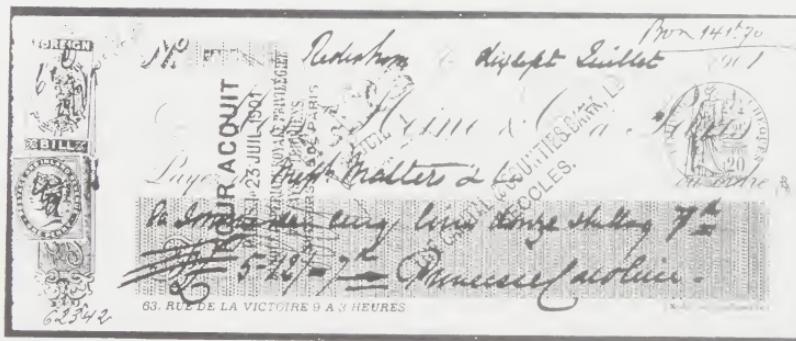
Figure 3.



**Figure 3a.**



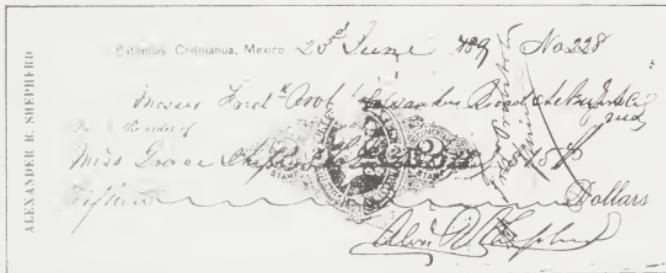
**Figure 4** was another surprise. Black on deep pink paper and with a Cape of Good Hope one penny postage stamp used as a duty stamp, this cheque of the Standard Bank of British South Africa, Limited, was drawn in Somerset in 1868, a century leap back in time from the previous item.



**Figure 5** gave me quite a thrill as I did not have one like it nor have I seen one. Drawn in 1901 in Reddisham, England on the French bank of Messrs. Heine & Cie. a Paris, it bears both British and French revenue stamps and is written in French and signed by "Princesse Caroline". My first guess was that the lady might be among the royalty of Monaco. There is a Princesse Caroline, daughter of Prince Rainier the current ruler. I noted the "Pour Acquit" stamp of the "Banque Imperiale Royale Priveege des Pays Autrichiens" of Paris with branches I cannot locate any information on royalty of this area of Europe that will identify the Princesse Caroline on the cheque. Any help would be appreciated.

***An RX-7 Issued in Mexico***  
***Coleman Leifer***

The check illustrated, which has an RNX-7 imprinted revenue, is unusual in that it was issued in Mexico. The maker of the check was Alexander Robey Shepherd, a former territorial governor of the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.). The payee is "Grace Shepherd a/c Grant Shepherd." Grant Shepherd was one of Alexander's sons and was named after President Grant. Grace was Grant's daughter.



Shepherd was born in Washington in 1835. He withdrew from school upon his father's death and held jobs as a store boy, a carpenter's apprentice and a plumber's assistant. He eventually opened his own plumbing business and engaged in real estate and building. He was a Republican and a Union supporter and served as a three-month volunteer to the Civil War. He then began a career in municipal politics including service as president of the District of Columbia common council.

At the time the infrastructure of Washington was in miserable shape. An article in the October 9, 1887 issue of the Washington Chronicle, which accompanied the illustration of Shepherd shown with this article, described the city at the time.

"For years Washington had lain neglected and forlorn, its streets muddy and dusty by turns, its architecture rude and primitive. Squalid shanties occupied the public reservations, the city was a disgrace to the country, the malaria breeding flats lay festering in the sun. Progress seemed to have closed her eyes and passed the city by."

Shepherd became an advocate of modernizing the city in an effort to thwart a proposal to move the Capital to another location. His efforts were successful when Congress, in 1871, created a territorial government for the District of Columbia including a Board of Public Works. President Grant named him to the board and he quickly assumed charge of things earning the name "Boss Shepherd." In 1873 Grant named him territorial Governor. In his enthusiasm to improve the city he spent millions of dollars beyond the amount authorized. He transformed Washington into a city with paved streets, sidewalks, adequate water and sewage facilities, gas lights and parks. His method of getting things done by awarding contracts, often to his friends, and without competitive bidding, led to congressional investigations and, in 1874, to replacement of the territorial government by commission rule. President Grant promptly named him one of the commissioners but the Senate refused to confirm him although he had been cleared of personal dishonesty.

Shepherd built a mansion near Washington's Dupont Circle, but during his period of public service had not paid adequate attention to his personal finances. At the time he was forced from office he was reputedly one million dollars in debt. But he obtained permission from the Mexican government to develop a silver mine at Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico and managed to recoup his fortune. In 1887 he resumed to Washington to recover from a head injury suffered at his mine and was hailed as a public benefactor. A parade in his honor drew 100,000 people and there were 20,000 people near the reviewing stand when he gave a speech expressing his gratitude to the city.

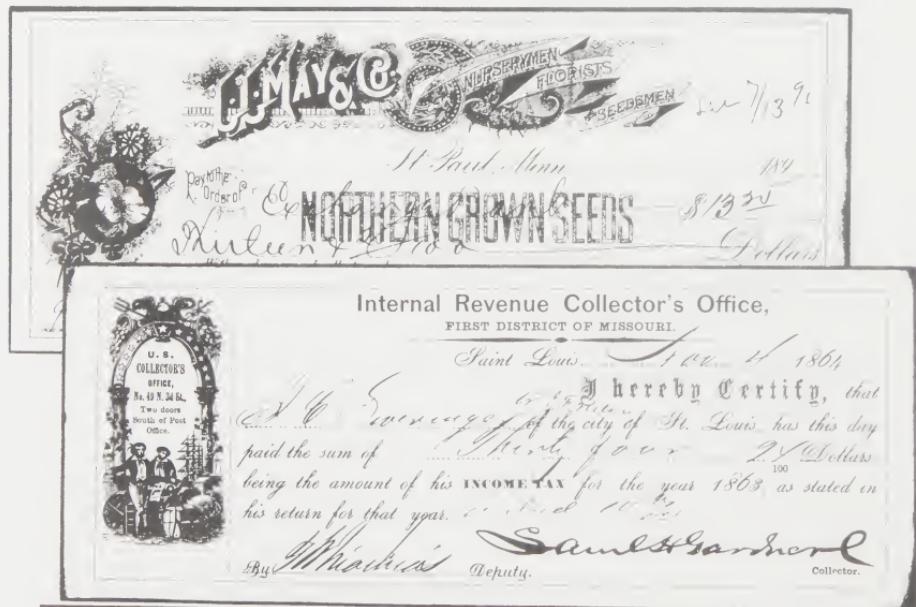
When he died, in Batopilas in 1902, as the aftermath of an appendicitis attack, he was given a hero's funeral in Washington. The cortege was the largest ever seen in the city up to that time. In 1909 a statue of Governor Shepherd was erected at Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the District Building (the city hall.)

The statue was placed in storage several years ago as a result of construction in the area. At the present time it is in an automobile impoundment lot across an interstate highway from the city's sewage treatment plant. This is surely an unfortunate location for the statue of a man who was responsible for the post-Civil War modernization of the Nation's Capital. However, an effort is currently being made to place the statue in a small park near the building that served as the Washington city hall during Shepherd's time and near the site of the Department of Public Works building where Shepherd had his office.

Source: Dictionary of American Biography; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1935.

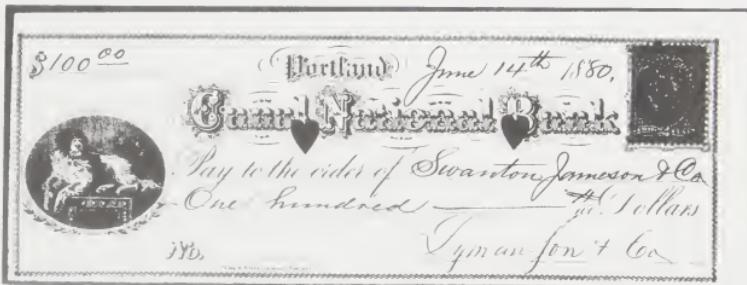
Thanks also to Dr. P. W. Ogilvie, District of Columbia Office of Public Records.

### *Harbingers of Spring...*



***The Dog and the Safe***  
***Lee Poleske***

A dog on or by a safe is a common vignette on checks. What could be a better symbol of security and safety? The dog on the safe, which appears on the check of the Canal National Bank of Portland, Maine, illustrated below, is an adaptation of the famous Edwin Landseer painting "A Distinguished Member of the Humane Society," painted in 1838.



The model for the original painting was Paul Pry, a black and white Newfoundland. The painting depicted the dog on a stone pier at high tide. It became one of Landseer's most famous paintings and an engraving of the painting, dedicated to the Royal Humane Society, was a best seller. One sign of the impact the painting made on the public is that black and white Newfoundlands have been called Landseers ever since.

The Newfoundland originated more than a century ago in the Canadian province of Newfoundland. They are a patient, even tempered dog, whose loyalty is legendary. Their concern for the safety of children entrusted to their care is almost human.

The man who created this masterpiece, Edwin Landseer, was born in London on March 7, 1802. His father, an engraver, gave him drawing lessons, and even as a boy his favorite subjects were horses, cows and dogs. He was only thirteen when his first works were accepted for exhibition. From 1810 until his death he produced hundreds of paintings and sketches of people, landscapes, but mostly of animals. His animal paintings were noted for their naturalism and his understanding of anatomy was far above the average animal painter. As he matured, he became not just a painter of animals, but a story teller; the animals in his paintings were used to illustrate human emotions and values.

He was elected to full membership in the Royal Academy in 1830 and in 1850 he was knighted. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert commissioned him to paint several of their prize livestock. He even gave the royal couple drawing lessons.

Sir Edwin Landseer died on October 1, 1873.

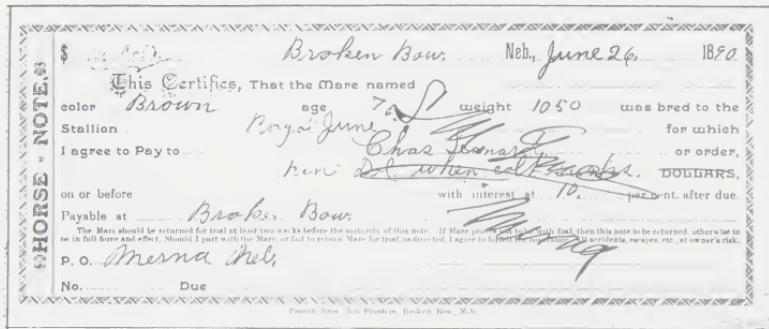
Both the American Bank Note Company and the British American Bank Note Company made engravings of Landseer's famous painting, substituting a safe for the pier, but not altering the pose of the dog. Their engravings appeared on both banknotes and checks.

The illustrated check was printed by the Portland company of Bailey and Noyes.

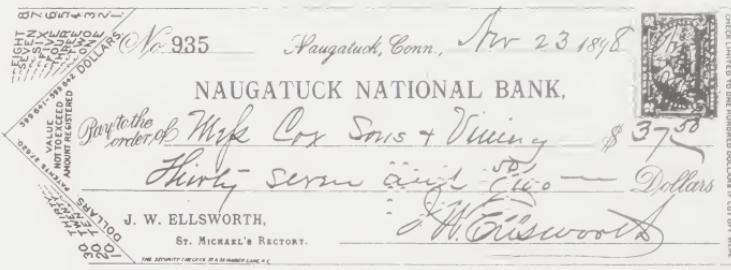
*Letter to the Editor*

(This is a continuation of a letter begun in the previous issue.)

The next item is one that I got twenty years ago at the last ANA in New York, so it comes to mind with this year's convention being there. It is a horse note, promising to pay a stud fee of \$9 if, "... Mare proves to be with foal..." The amount to be paid appears to say, "...nine dollars when colt sucks..." I have a feeling that the last word is something else, but it is hard to read, because of the writing over this. Notice that the dollar sign in the upper left is followed by 'New Colt.' I have never come across another of these items. Maybe they are common in the horse breeding business, but if so, I haven't seen any.



Last, here is an unusual security device on a check. At the left edge there is an angled series of amounts that can be used to limit the maximum amount of the check. Apparently, there were amounts on the right that would be used if the check were over \$100. These have been entirely cut away. All that's left is, "Check limited to one hundred dollars if cut off here." None of the checks I found like this one was for more than \$99, so I don't know exactly what the unused check looked like before it had been cut.



I hope you find some of these interesting and may think the members will be interested, too

Arthur Aron, ASCC #1048

*Vaguely Threatening Letter to the Editor*

Editor  
True Candid Confessions  
P.O. Box 190332  
Saint Louis, MO 63119-6332

Hey, Man,

It has been, like hard, man, finding you guys. Ever since I saw your paper on that check-out rack I have been trying to get ahold of you. Finally I saw this ad for TCC and I knew I was in luck.

Well, anyway, I figured you would be interested in this hot story. I thought we really had a live one, you know. A REAL subversive organization operating right under our noses! Yea, and they call themselves THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. I thought they might be responsible for who knows what - maybe an assassination or a bombing or something. Maybe something to do with FLIGHT 800!!

Well, no such luck. Buggarsnots! It turns out that VotP doesn't stand for "Voice of the People" after all. It stands for some goofy stamp collector's organization. Now I can't tell you much about it because it REALLY is a secret organization. But I was able to find out its name. You may not want to print this but it stands for - are you ready for this? "Victims of the Phantom and all other Revenue Stamped Paper collectors."

I couldn't get any more out of the guy before he passed out. Well, the cops were coming so I high-tailed out of there fast. But fear not, I'm still on the case.

Don't worry you'll be hearing from me again. I can't reveal my real identity as I am currently a snitch for one of your competitor%.

Former CIA Tipster

(Yes, I DID receive this in the mail, and reprint it in its entirety!!! - Editor.)

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Robert D. Hohertz, Hermann Ivester, M. S. Kazanjian and Lee E. Poleske have been elected Directors of the ASCC for a two-year term ending in 1988

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The Memphis Paper Money Show will be held June 20-22, 1997. It is an excellent source of fiscal paper.

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***President's Message***  
***Martha Cox***

I have kicked off 1997, not only with the Super Bowl, but also with a review of a majority of the 152 member surveys returned thus far. My intent for this message was to present a recap of the 19 items mentioned in the survey, but alas, I realize I am no statistician (I discovered this quite early on). To begin with, the tallying has consumed nearly every evening of the last two weeks, and I am nowhere near done (so much for the thought, "well, a couple of hours, and it'll be done"). I also realize that more surveys are trickling in (keep them coming...), so a meaningful picture will not be available until our next issue. I am happy to share some trends with you, though keep in mind this is preliminary.

First of all, a heartfelt thanks for your terrific response. I always thought that check collectors were especially wonderful people and now I have confirmation of that fact. The insightful comments on nearly every survey indicated that respondents reflected on each item. Some of you wrote letters in addition to the survey, and others even included what can best be described as resumes, as an apology for not taking a more active role in the society. You took the time, and I wanted to take time to reflect on what you had to say. You deserved no less.

Some comments made me laugh out loud, others brought a lump to my throat. I felt indebted to the pioneers of our society, as I read their comments, for all they have done for many, many years. I also felt the enthusiasm and excitement of the newer members. What came through collectively was the love of the hobby and the sense that contained in our collections are pieces of history that we can share with such a select few that truly appreciate what we do.

For this issue, I will recap a few of the items mentioned in the survey.

Re: #1, there is no question you are busy, well-connected folks. Many of you commented that your other affiliations were not mentioned. We did not mean to slight any group; we were trying to get a general picture of the affiliations of our members. We wanted the survey to fit on one sheet and yet provide some room for comments. If we missed your group, thanks for adding the information.

Re: #6, you appear to be satisfied with your membership. Only two so far have indicated no one because of very specific collecting interests, and the other hoped we would provide more information on pricing. Both are valid comments but I won't address either in this space right now. Next time. What are your recommendations, members?

Re: #8. I was truly heartened by the number of you who indicated that you would be willing to provide membership applications to potential members, kind of an ambassador at large. This was in addition to those responding as dealers. Thank you.

Re: #10, Strong feelings and comments about the life membership issue. Votes were overwhelming in the not interested category, but the ten (so far) "yes" responders were very enthusiastic: a couple ready to write a check right now, while it might be considered.

Re: #17, Some fairly strong feelings about the inclusion of a column on stocks and bonds. If you were for or against, you had a strong opinion on this one for the most part. One conciliatory comment, which had a lot of validity, suggested articles on stocks and bonds as they were submitted, without the need for a column in every issue.

Re: #19, More strong feelings and lots of comments on this one about membership dues from both sides. It is running three to one in favor of raising the dues, as of right now, but I agree with one responder who commented that we should consider this very carefully before making any change.

Without covering every item, I wanted you to get a flavor of the results. A full recap, including a sampling of the comments, will be available for the next issue.

Thank you for your participation in the member survey. Your collective response will assist the officers and directors of ASCC as they plan for the future of the society.

Keep your surveys coming, if you have not sent them in. We want to know what you have to say. Meanwhile, happy hunting!

**What's Happening Out West...**  
**Martha Cox**

Thank you for submitting your show schedules, price lists, and auction catalogues. Quality items are still out there, and good shows and reputable dealers abound. Let's see what the next few months have in store.

Apr 12-13  
 Sacramento Valley Coin Club  
 15th Annual Spring Show  
 LaSierra Community Center  
 5352 Engle Rd., Carmichael, CA  
 David Herr. (916) 885 9050

May 1-3  
 Arizona Coin Expo  
 Phoenix Civic Plaza  
 Phoenix, AZ  
 Sandy Gulde (602) 998-4001

May 2-4  
 Coin, Stamp, Card and Collectibles Show  
 Convention Center  
 5001 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara, CA  
 Rudy Christians, (916) 528-8229

May 16-18  
 Coin, Stamp & Sports Card Exposition  
 National Western Complex - Expo Hall  
 4655 Humboldt St  
 I-70 & Brighton Blvd Exit 275B, Denver CO  
 Jerry Morgan (303) 759-1895

May 29-June 8  
 Pacific '97 World Stamp Exhibition  
 San Francisco, CA  
 Eric Jackson, (610) 926-6200

June 4-8  
 Long Beach Coin & Collectible Expo  
 Convention Center  
 100 S. Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA  
 Ron Gillio, (805) 963-0827

And, put this on your calendar

ASCC Round Table  
 Saturday, June 7, 1997  
 10:00 a.m. Room A102 (entry level -  
 do NOT go down escalator)  
 at the  
 Long Beach Coin & Collectible Expo  
 Convention Center  
 100 S. Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA  
 Contact: Martha Cox (619) 436-4962

The foregoing information is a compilation of several listings. Please "double check" before you make a trip to any of these events. Sometimes shows are cancelled or events may change.

Forward your catalogs and correspondence to: Martha Cox, 14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014 Information on events from the period July-September 1997 should be sent to me no later than May 1, 1997, the deadline for inclusion in the next issue of *The Check Collector*.

In addition to the show information, I received catalogs and price lists from: Russ Hornbacher, 645-B West Jackson, Spearfish, SD 57783, phone (605) 642-0568; Cohasco, Inc., Postal 821, Yonkers, NY 10702, phone (914) 476-8500; and Eric Jackson, PO Box 728, Leesport, PA 19533-0728, phone (610) 926-6200. Thank you.

Happy hunting!

***Secretary's Report***  
***Coleman Leifer***

This report includes changes received through March 3, 1997

**NEW MEMBERS**

1565	BANKS, ROBERT O. JR. (C/D) PO Box 702	Monett MO 65708	2 (Western), 4, 22-23, 26 (by Warren Anderson)
1566	ERICKSON, RICHARD J.	10760-3 Woodley Av	Granada Hills CA 91344
1564	GORE, CHARLES	99F Main St, #169	Stoneham MA 02180-3305 (by Mike Kazanjian)
1567	HICKS, SAM	PO Box 1034	Arden NC 28704 (by Rodney Battles)
1562	KAHTAVA, BRYAN D.	PO Box 41	Circleville UT 84723      2 (AZ, CA, CO, NV, UT), (By Doug McDonald)
1561	MILLER, J.A.L. JR.	2810-K Carriage Dr	Winston-Salem NC 27106-5328 (thru Bank Note Reporter)
1563	ROBERTS, DYAS	607 S. 7th Box 145	LaGrange MO 63448-0145

**REINSTATED FROM NPD LIST**

1285	DECOURCY, JOHN	PO Box 24	Worcester MA 01613	1-2, 4, 22, 30-31
1281	PERRIS, RICHARD D.	1625 Calle Granada	Duarte CA 91010	1-2, 4, 9, 21-22, 26, 30

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

0816	BIEMER, RICHARD	10363 State Hwy 18	Conneaut Lake PA 16316
1538	BURNS, RAYMOND D.	3524 173rd St, Apt 21	Hammond IN 46323
1162	FIEBELKORN, CHRIS P.	PO Box 3028-5066	Gillette WY 82717
0043	HORSTMAN, RONALD	5010 Timber Ln	Gerald MO 63037
1179	JOHNSON, HARRY R.S.R.	4279 Garand Ln	West Palm Beach FL 33406-2945
1448	PERLINE, LES (C/D)	5 Beechwood Ln	Armonk NY 10504
1508	SANFORD, MICHAEL W. (D)	6405 Old Madison Pike NW Apt. 18	Huntsville AL 35806-2077
1261	SMITH, LOGAN (C/D)	1300 Robinhood Rd	Watkinsville GA 30677-1820
1235	VOSS, GREGORY	13 Roland Av	Ballwin MO 63021

**RESIGNATIONS**

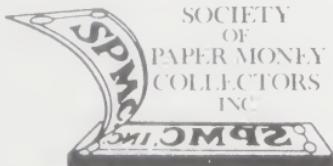
1186	ENGEL, CRAIG A.
0793	GAITES, ALAN
0834	HOSEK, GEORGE
0762	MOCK, SANFORD J.
1127	SCHOENBERGER, E. D.
1482	TODD, RICHARD M.

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996

<u>Starting Balance</u>		\$4,038.45
<u>Plus Income</u>		
Dues & Advertising	\$4, 097.50	
Interest Earned	<u>73.11</u>	
Total	\$4, 170.61	+4,170.61
 <u>Less Expenses</u>		
Postage	567.00	
Printing	2, 152.23	
Office	47.43	
Telephone	9.88	
Fees	<u>30.00</u>	
Total	\$2,806.54	<u>-2,806.54</u>
 <u>Ending Balance</u>		\$5, 402.52

Respectfully Submitted

*Dick Warner*

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